

# WHAT'S *New*



in the Metropolitan Police Department

*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and  
workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, March 31, 2006*

## CHIEF OUTLINES MPDC BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FY07

The MPDC's proposed budget for fiscal year 2007 will allow the Department to remain at its fully authorized level of 3,800 sworn members and will support ongoing efforts to put more of those officers in operational assignments on the street, Chief Ramsey told the DC Council this past week. "The proposed budget for FY07 supports our primary goal of maximizing the resources that are devoted to fighting crime in DC's neighborhoods," Ramsey said in testimony before the Committee on the Judiciary. The Department's proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins October 1, 2006, is approximately \$437 million, or an increase of about \$56 million from the current year budget. The Chief said the vast majority of the increase is associated with the five-year, 21-percent pay increase (retroactive to FY04) that was recently negotiated with the Fraternal Order of Police. Because prior budgets did not account for any pay increases, the FY07 budget absorbs a cumulative 16 percent pay raise between FY04 and FY07, as well as increased costs for employee benefits, overtime and other pay categories. The budget also includes nearly \$4.2 million in local funds needed to cover the salaries of 81 officers who were previously paid under a federal community policing grant. Ramsey reported that the proposed FY07 budget fully funds the civilianization program that the MPDC began in late FY05, in which qualified civilians are hired for some administrative and technical positions currently held by sworn members, thus allowing the sworn members to be reassigned to operational duties. Of the more than 80 positions identified for civilization, the MPDC has filled 66, 11 are in background investigation and 8 are currently being advertised. As part of the civilianization process, the Chief said he would like to expand the Police Cadet program from 9 to 30 cadets. Police Cadets are recent high school graduates from DC who are employed by the Department in civilian positions, while they also attend college. Upon completing their associate degree, the cadets enter the police training academy as recruit officers. "Expanding the Cadet Program will not only increase the pool of talented recruit officers from DC who are available to our agency in the coming years. Expansion will also mean that even more District youth will benefit from access to employment opportunities, secondary education and a career in public service," Ramsey told the Committee.

① Read the Chief's complete statement at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,559590,mpdcNav\\_GID,1543.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,559590,mpdcNav_GID,1543.asp)

① For more information on the Police Cadet program, visit:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538128.asp>

## IN MEMORIAM: SERGEANT GERARD W. BURKE JR.

The MPDC and the Third District community said goodbye this week to a beloved member of their family: 39-year-old Sergeant Gerard W. Burke Jr., who died in the performance of duty on Thursday evening, March 23. A 16-year veteran of the MPDC, Sergeant Burke was off duty in his personal vehicle when he spotted a suspected stolen vehicle being driven by a juvenile along 11th Street, NW. Sergeant Burke was talking with police dispatchers about the suspect vehicle via his cell phone, when he suffered a medical emergency, causing his vehicle to crash. Sergeant Burke was taken to the Washington Hospital Center's MedStar Unit and pronounced dead. Chief Ramsey ruled Sergeant Burke's death to be in the performance of duty. He praised Burke for having the courage and initiative to take action against a suspected criminal, even while off duty. It was later determined that the vehicle Sergeant Burke was inquiring about had been stolen earlier that day and was later recovered in Northwest. Sergeant Burke received full police honors during a memorial service at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in DC; his funeral and burial took place in his native

① Visit the memorial, and submit a personal remembrance of any of the MPDC's fallen heroes, at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1233,q,539213,mpdcNav,131457|.asp>

① Chief Ramsey has proposed renaming the Third District Substation, located at 750 Park Road, NW, in honor of Sergeant Burke. Legislation to formally enact the name change is expected to be introduced soon in the DC Council.

**CONTINUES ON BACK**

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Long Island, New York. Over the years, Sergeant Burke distinguished himself for heroism and excellence. He received the Bronze Star for administering CPR to fellow officer Brian Gibson, who was ambushed and shot in February 1997 at the corner of Georgia and Missouri Avenues, NW. Ramsey said Sergeant's Burke selfless efforts helped to keep Officer Gibson alive long enough for his family to visit him in the hospital before he died. Sergeant Burke also received the Achievement Medal in 2003, and the Police Service Area he led — PSA 302 — was named the PSA of the Year for ROC-Central in 2005. In addition to being respected by his fellow officers, Sergeant Burke was well known and loved in the Columbia Heights community where he both worked and lived. Sergeant Burke has been added to the MPDC's Online Memorial to officers who died in the line of duty.

## UPDATE ON FORENSICS CRIME LABORATORY

The MPDC is looking to hire an experienced forensic scientist to serve as project manager in planning and overseeing the Department's operations at DC's proposed new Consolidated Forensics & Public Health Laboratory, Chief Ramsey reported to the DC Council this week. In a written statement, Ramsey said the project manager will be responsible for developing a strategic transition plan, incorporating personnel, training and equipment needs, for moving from the current setup to the new lab. The project manager will also oversee some key interim activities, including working with other labs to address the existing backlog of DNA cases. Unlike most other major cities, the District has never had its own forensics crime laboratory for conducting analysis of DNA and other evidence. Instead, the MPDC must rely on the FBI Crime Lab in Quantico, Virginia, to handle most of its lab operations. The Department has secured 10 forensic positions to work exclusively on MPDC cases at the FBI Lab. The Chief reported that while three of those employees recently left, the Department is in the process of filling those positions. To further support its DNA efforts, the Chief has asked the FBI to conduct a comprehensive examination of how the MPDC collects, handles and stores all types of evidence, and to recommend improvements. The Chief added that even with these interim steps, "the District needs its own crime laboratory — and one that is capable of taking full advantage of the latest in DNA and other forensics technologies."

## NEWS & NOTES

**Chief Ramsey on News Channel 8, WTOP.** Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues during two media appearances in the upcoming week. On Wednesday, April 5, from 4-5 pm, the Chief appears on News Channel 8's "News Talk" program. Then on Thursday, April 6, from 10-11 am, the Chief has his regular monthly "Ask the Chief" appearance on Washington Post Radio (1500-AM and 107.7-FM). Note that "Ask the Chief" is no longer heard on the main WTOP station (103.5-FM).

**Civilian Positions in the MPDC.** The MPDC is accepting applications for various civilian positions, including three biologist positions (one being a manager) to work as DNA forensic specialists on MPDC cases at the FBI lab in Quantico, Virginia. The staff positions are responsible for planning, coordinating and directing forensic science activities to include expert examinations, reporting of results, training and testimony in court. The manager position serves as a master forensic examiner and is responsible for managing, planning, coordinating and directing forensic science activities. Details on these and other positions — including duties, requirements and salary ranges — are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp>.

① The MPDC is also mourning the death of Prince George's County Police Corporal Robert Hernandez, who was killed in Iraq this week while serving in the Army Reserves. Corporal Hernandez was an MPDC officer for nearly a decade before joining the Prince George's Police. Details at: [http://www.goprincegeorgescounty.com/Government/PublicSafety/Police/news\\_articles/newsarticle10000.asp?h=80n=0](http://www.goprincegeorgescounty.com/Government/PublicSafety/Police/news_articles/newsarticle10000.asp?h=80n=0)

① Read his full written statement at: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,559618,mpdcNav\\_GID,1543.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,559618,mpdcNav_GID,1543.asp)

### DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 3/31/06
◆ 2006: 39	
◆ 2005: 42	
◆ % Change: -7.1%	
◆ Closure Rate: 51.3% (20 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 3/25/06
◆ Total: 934	
◆ Weapons: 37	
◆ Robbery: 7	
◆ Auto Theft: 13	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 32	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 3/25/06
◆ Arrests: 65	
◆ Curfew Violators: 39	
◆ Truants: 111	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 3/29/06
◆ March: 176	
◆ 2006 Total: 622	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 3/31/06
◆ 2006: 11	
◆ 2005: 13	
◆ % Change: -15.4%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with [Crime-reports.com](http://Crime-reports.com).

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